

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY ARA/PAN:RBHOWARD:BK

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PANAMA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 240620

STADIS//////////

CANALNEGS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PN

SUBJECT: PANAMA CANAL NEGOTIATIONS: WASHINGTON ACTIVITIES

FOR BELL FROM WYROUGH

----- I

THIS IS MESSAGE NO. 12 FROM THE DEPARTMENT RESPECTING
SEPTEMBER 1975 NEGOTIATING ROUND.

----- II.

1. CONGRESSIONAL MEETINGS/HEARINGS. WE ARE BEGINNING TO
PREPARE FOR AMBASSADOR BUNKER'S CLOSED HEARING BEFORE THE
FASCELL SUBCOMMITTEE AND FOR HIS CONFIDENTIAL MEETING
WITH MRS. SULLIVAN, CONGRESSMAN METCALFE AND OTHER MEMBERS
OF THE PANAMA CANAL SUBCOMMITTEE. THE SENATE WILL BE IN
RECESS DURING OCTOBER 10-20. THE HOUSE WILL BE IN RECESS
DURING OCTOBER 9-20 AND AGAIN OCTOBER 23-28. FASCELL HAD
ASKED FOR A HEARING ON OCTOBER 20 OR 21, BUT AT AMBASSADOR
BUNKER'S REQUEST, H IS SEEKING TO POSTPONE THE FASCELL
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HEARING UNTIL AFTER HIS SULLIVAN-METCALFE MEETING WHICH

COULD BE AS EARLY AS OCTOBER 20 OR 21. THERE HAS BEEN, HOWEVER, NO CONTACT AS YET WITH THE METCALFE SUBCOMMITTEE.

2. SULLIVAN-METCALFE LETTER. S/S DELAYED MCCLOSKEY'S REPLY TO SULLIVAN-METCALFE LETTER TO THE SECRETARY, BUT WE EXPECT REVISED LETTER WILL BE SENT OUT TOMORROW.

3. CONGRESSIONAL STAFF MEETING. WE ARE PLANNING A BRIEFING FOR CONGRESSIONAL STAFF MEMBERS FOR THURSDAY, OCTOBER 16. H WILL PROVIDE A LIST OF INVITEES BASED ON ANALYSIS OF RECENT HOUSE VOTE ON CONFERENCE LANGUAGE. WE SHOULD PLAN FOR GENERAL DOLVIN TO ATTEND.

4. PRESIDENTIAL INTERVIEW. IN A TV INTERVIEW YESTERDAY IN KNOXVILLE, TENNESSEE, PRESIDENT FORD ON A QUESTION RELATING TO THE CANAL NEGOTIATIONS, SAID "I WOULD NOT, UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES, DO ANYTHING IN THE NEGOTIATIONS OR SUBMIT A PROPOSAL TO THE SENATE THAT UNDERCUTS OUR NATIONAL SECURITY. WITHIN THOSE CONFINES, THESE NEGOTIATIONS ARE GOING ON, AND I THINK IT WOULD NOT BE WISE FOR ME TO GO INTO ANY OF THE DETAILS BECAUSE WE HAVE AN OUTSTANDING NEGOTIATOR DOWN THERE WHO HAS INSTRUCTIONS WITHIN THOSE BROAD GUIDELINES."

5. HEADS OF STATE MEETING. IN RECENT MEETING IN VENEZUELA OAS SECRETARY GENERAL ORFILA AND PRESIDENT LOPEZ REPORTEDLY DISCUSSED PANAMA'S PROPOSED MEETING OF LATIN AMERICAN HEADS OF STATE. THEY REPORTEDLY WERE CONCERNED THAT MEETING WOULD PROVIDE PROMINENT PUBLIC PLATFORM TO AIR DISCORD BETWEEN THE LATIN AMERICAN COMMUNITY AND THE US ON THE PANAMA CANAL. TO MUTE THIS POTENTIAL, PEREZ AND ORFILA AGREED THAT IT IS ESSENTIAL TO HAVE SIGNIFICANT PRIOR MOVEMENT ON CANAL ISSUE. ORFILA PLANS TO RELAY THIS MESSAGE TO PRESIDENT FORD IN A MEETING SCHEDULED FOR 10/9. THERE HAVE BEEN NO FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS CONCERNING THE PAPER RELATED TO THIS MEETING WHICH YOU SAW BEFORE YOUR DEPARTURE.

6A. WE ARE PREPARING Q'S AND A'S FOR POSSIBLE USE IN THE SECRETARY'S PRESS CONFERENCE IN OTTAWA EARLY NEXT WEEK.
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6B. NSC (BROWNELL) REPORTS THAT PANAMA WAS NOT DISCUSSED IN THE PRESIDENT'S MEETING WITH CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS YESTERDAY MORNING.

6C. ON 10/9, CIA WILL PUBLISH SPECIAL ITEM ON TREATY NEGOTIATIONS IN THE NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE DIGEST. ITEM WILL BE IN LIEU OF NEW SNIE WHICH DIA HAD PROPOSED. HOWARD AND

INR ANALYST HAVE DISCUSSED ITEM WITH DRAFTER.

6D. WE LEARNED THIS WEEK FROM AN ARTICLE IN THE SPILLWAY ABOUT THE OCTOBER 17 VISIT TO THE CANAL ZONE OF PATRICIA LINDH, SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT FOR WOMEN. SHE IS SCHEDULED TO ADDRESS AN EVENT SPONSORED BY FEDERALLY EMPLOYED WOMEN (FEW). WE HAVE OFFERED TO BRIEF HER BEFORE HER DEPARTURE.

6E. INSPECTORS WILL CONCLUDE THEIR VISIT TOMORROW.

6F. HOWARD, CHESTER, AND I ARE ATTENDING FAREWELL LUNCHEON FOR SMITH TOMORROW.

6G. WE ARE STILL WORKING ON THE DRAFT STATEMENT TO CALM EMPLOYEE FEARS AND WILL FURNISH IT TO YOU WHEN AVAILABLE.

7. GENERAL DOLVIN. AMBASSADOR BUNKER AND GENERAL BROWN LUNCHEDED TOGETHER TODAY AT BROWN'S INVITATION. AMBASSADOR BUNKER TOLD ME AFTERWARD THAT THE MEETING HAD BEEN QUITE SATISFACTORY WITH GENERAL BROWN BEING VERY HELPFUL. THEY APPARENTLY REACHED GENERAL AGREEMENT ON A "TWO-HATTED" ARRANGEMENT WITH GENERAL DOLVIN BEING A "DEPUTY FOR DEFENSE MATTERS" AND AT THE SAME TIME SERVING IN SOME DEFENSE-WIDE COORDINATING ROLE, POSSIBLE AS CHAIRMAN OF THE PANAMA CANAL NEGOTIATIONS WORKING GROUP. GENERAL BROWN TOLD AMBASSADOR BUNKER THAT HE WOULD INITIATE THE NECESSARY CONSULTATIONS WITHIN DEFENSE TO MOVE GENERAL DOLVIN INTO THE PCNWG. GENERAL BROWN SAID THAT HE FAVORED THIS ARRANGEMENT BECAUSE HE WANTS GENERAL DOLVIN TO HAVE BROAD CONTACT WITH ALL MILITARY SERVICES. AMBASSADOR BUNKER REMARKED TO GENERAL BROWN THAT THE "TWO-HATTED" ARRANGEMENT WOULD PERMIT GENERAL DOLVIN TO PARTICIPATE IN THE
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TECHNICAL TALKS TO BE HELD HERE WHENEVER THE PANAMANIAN ARRIVE. BUNKER AND BROWN AGREED THAT GENERAL DOLVIN WOULD HAVE TWO OFFICES (ONE HERE AND ONE IN THE PENTAGON) AND THAT DOLVIN'S SECRETARIAL AND STAFF SUPPORT WOULD BE FURNISHED PRIMARILY AT THE PENTAGON.

DURING THE MEETING, GENERAL BROWN EXPRESSED A WILLINGNESS TO DO MORE IN SUPPORT OF THE NEGOTIATIONS. HE COMMENTED THAT HE HAD ALREADY TRIED TO TURN AROUND RETIRED AIR FORCE GENERAL IRA EAKER WHO HAS WRITTEN SEVERAL NEGATIVE ARTICLES ABOUT THE NEGOTIATIONS. BROWN TOLD BUNKER THAT EAKER HAD RESPONDED POSITIVELY. GENERAL BROWN ALSO SAID THAT HE COULD BE HELPFUL WITH RETIRED MARINE GENERAL KRULAK WHO APPARENTLY NOW MANAGES THE COPLEY NEWS SERVICE WHICH HAS, AS YOU KNOW, A SOMEWHAT CONSERVATIVE BENT.

BROWN OFFERED TO PERFORM SOME SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS IN SUPPORT OF THE NEGOTIATIONS AND SAID THAT HE WOULD CLEAR

HIS SPEECHES WITH US IN ADVANCE. FINALLY, HE SUGGESTED THAT WE SHOULD TRY TO GET A CONGRESSMAN TO ASK THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS TO PUT OUT A "WHITE PAPER" ON THE CANAL NEGOTIATIONS. HE SEEMED TO THINK THAT SUCH A PAPER WOULD BE USEFUL FOR OUR PURPOSES. BUNKER SAID THAT HE WOULD CONSIDER THE LATTER.

EARLIER IN THE DAY AMBASSADOR BUNKER AND GENERAL DOLVIN HAD SEPARATE MEETINGS WITH MR. INGERSOLL, AND WITH MR. ROGERS AND AMBASSADOR RYAN. LATER IN THE MORNING GENERAL DOLVIN MET WITH THE ARA/PAN STAFF AND IS CONTINUING TO READ TREATY DOCUMENTS SUPPLIED BY US. HE WANTS TO MAKE A WEEK LONG VISIT TO PANAMA LATER THIS MONTH IF POSSIBLE AND HAS SAID THAT HE WOULD BE BACK IN TOUCH LATER THIS WEEK. KISSINGER

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